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## NOTES ON CURRENT AND RECENT EVENTS.

### ANTHROPOLOGY—PSYCHOLOGY—LEGAL-MEDICINE.

**Sterilization of Criminals and Defectives.**—The question of "sterilization" has passed nearly through its academic stage. It is no longer to be regarded merely as the aberration or idiosyncrasy of some "crank" warden, doctor, or alienist. I was told last summer by the conservative secretary of a Western State Board of Charities, that the only trouble with sterilization is that it is not used often enough! But when we begin to find serious notice taken by European scientific workers of American applications of sterilization we may safely presume that the principle has arrived! The German publication, *Juristisch-psychiatrische Grenzfragen*, (Vol. III) last year contained two notable articles on this subject. One from Dr. Hans W. Maier, on the North American laws against the inheritance of crime and insanity and their application; the other from Dr. Emil Oberholzer, on castration and sterilization of the insane in Switzerland. Dr. Löffler, editor of the *Oesterreichische Zeitschrift für Strafrecht* (Heft. 6, 1912) notes these articles and gives a very fair resume of the problems involved. Other recent treatments of the sterilization question from different angles are to be found in *Archiv f. Kriminal-Anthropologie*, etc., XXXIX, 32; *Zeitschrift f. die gesamte Strafrechtswissenschaft*, XVIII, 446; *Monatschrift f. Kriminalpsychologie und Strafrechtsreform*, V. 734-743. Dr. Ernst Rosenfeld, in writing of his impressions as a delegate to the last International Prison Congress, (*Blätter f. Gefängniskunde*, 45:286-9) concludes unfavorably on the practice of sterilization at least as he saw it in Indiana. *Auf mich hat der Vorgang einen abscheulichen Eindruck gemacht*, he says. But another distinguished foreign delegate, Dr. Gennat, Director of Prisons at Hamburg, recently expressed himself as favoring "emasculatation," at least of men convicted of crimes against decency. We need not multiply examples. Enough has been said to warrant the criminologist or the lawyer in treating the sterilization question seriously in formulating his science or his project for legal reform.

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**Report of Physician and Psychologist on the Reformatory Population at St. Cloud, Minn.**—The following report to General Superintendent F. L. Randall, bears the date of May 16, 1913. It covers a year's work by Dr. Green for the population of the State Reformatory, at St. Cloud.

To the General Superintendent:

Mental examinations have been made in the cases of 250 inmates up to this time, and I am submitting herewith a report of my findings.

In making these examinations the Binet-Simon tests were used, supplemented in some cases by tests devised by Dr. William Healy, of Chicago, and used by him in the Juvenile Court. The Binet-Simon test, as you know, consists of graded mental tasks, increasingly difficult to perform proportionate to advance in age. The advantage possessed by this system of measuring the intelligence is that the tests are standardized to various ages from 3 to 12 years, eliminating the personal factor of the examiner in great part, which is very desirable. These tests were originally devised for measuring the intelligence of children. In applying them to adult subjects it becomes very neces-